

The Desert **SUSTAINER**

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Serving the soldiers of LSA Anaconda and Sustainer Army Airfield

HumVee Service Center keeps the fleet ready

by Sgt. Grant Calease
LSA Anaconda

The American Army rolled across Iraq in March and April to liberate the Iraqi people. Since then it has spent many months patrolling the country ensuring Iraq's safety. The Army's High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, or HumVee, has been the workhorse that ensured all these missions were accomplished, but after months of being run hard the fleet is starting to tire.

It's the job of Logistical Support Area Anaconda's HumVee Service Center to keep the fleet ready to continue on with the mission of rebuilding Iraq.

"The service center is there to assist units with performing services on HumVee vehicles," said Sgt. Maj. Martin J. Durkot, V Corps' logistics sergeant major.

"The main objective is to get these vehicles safe," he said. "When you put soldiers on the road you want to be sure they're safe.

"And this is also to assist the soldiers and units with their maintenance because they are on guard duty and doing other missions," said Durkot, who handles all appointments at the service center.

Basic level maintenance is all that is currently being done at the facility. The mechanics change engine oil and fluids as well as tires, brakes, belts and any other basic maintenance, said Durkot.

The center opened October 19 to the units stationed at LSA Anaconda.

"The first week we just did it for Anaconda so we could get the bugs out. Now we're getting units from Baghdad and other places," said Durkot.

Originally working with 10 mechanics the shop was handling 15 vehicles per day. More mechanics have arrived, so the shop now has two dozen workers and is looking to up it's output with the additional help.

"We started doing 15 vehicles a day. This week we're going up to 20, and by the end of the month we want to be doing 40," said Durkot.

The center's mechanics are all civilians from either Anderson Army Depot in Alabama or Red River Army Depot in Texas. They all work in this field back home, and they volunteered to come to Iraq, he said.

The mechanics volunteered to come to Iraq so they could support the soldiers in the field, said Glen Lee, the HumVee Service Center's shop foreman.

"They know they have a mission to support us, and they are doing an excellent job," said Durkot.

"Plus, they all have a really positive attitude, and that's what makes working with these guys so great," he said.

The service center's employees built the facility from an empty tin shed. They built an office as well as making it able to

handle the workload. Walls, air compressor hoses and doors were added to complete the shop. As well as fixing up their work environment, they built floors and separate living quarters within their tents.

"It makes me proud after what this place looked like when we got here," said Lee. "It was nothing but a tin building."

Concrete slabs are being laid behind the existing facility so the service center can grow with the influx of business.

"That will allow our mechanics to have more work room and do more detailed maintenance," said Lee.

"It'll expand more. With the constant operation of the HumVee, we need to find time to keep the fleet up and at mission-capable status," said Durkot.

Lee says that the shop would like units to bring their vehicles in every 3,000 to 5,000 miles.

The feedback from the units has been good. The units appreciate the help in keeping their vehicles on the road, said Lee.

It's the volunteers at the HumVee Service Center on LSA Anaconda as well as all the unit motor pools that are keeping the Army's mighty fleet on the road. In doing this, they are helping keep the people of Iraq safe, and they are establishing a democracy in the Fertile Crescent.



Michael Simpson checks the oil on a HumVee at Logistical Support Area Anaconda. Simpson works at the new HumVee Service Center, which conducts basic maintenance on the Army's fleet of HumVees freeing up soldiers to complete other missions.

War trophies - a bad idea

U.S. Army Europe News Release — Bringing home that bayonet from Iraq may seem like a good idea while you are on the ground, but don't ruin your career for a souvenir.

"Unauthorized possession of a war trophy is a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and you may be subject to punishment," said Maj. Stephen L. Harms, deputy chief of the International & Operational Law Division, USAREUR Office of the Judge Advocate.

Basically, if it's personal property that was not sold to you, has value to the host country, is or was a living thing, contains soil, or is a military item that can kill or injure, don't bring it back.

War trophies from Operation Iraqi Freedom are governed by Army Regulation 608-4 and general orders and fragmentary orders issued by Central Command and V Corps.

Individuals who believe an item they wish to bring back falls outside of the restrictions should check with their chain of command or contact their unit legal advisor for guidance.

In order to retain and transport war trophies, military members must receive written permission from the theater commander. The written authorization is a Department of Defense Form 603-1 (War Trophy Registration/Authorization).

Items such as firearms or shell casings must be reported to, and approved by, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the U.S. Customs Service before they are imported into the United States.

AR 608-4 prohibits soldiers from possessing the following items as war trophies:

(1) **United States property or property of**

any allied nation.

(2) **United States property issued or otherwise provided to other governments and captured from enemy forces during hostilities.**

(3) **Name plates removed from any type of equipment (name plates will not be removed from captured equipment, except as authorized by the appropriate commander).**

(4) **Live ammunition, explosives, or any item containing explosives.**

(5) **Weapons defined as "firearms" by the National Firearms Act.**

(6) **Electronic equipment (radios, radar equipment) or component parts thereof.**

(7) **Flammables of any nature.**

(8) **Government-owned or privately owned equipment of any enemy, which is not designed to be issued to or carried by an individual (i.e., motor vehicles, aircraft, motorcycles, machine tools, surgical or dental instruments).**

(9) **Government-owned or privately owned articles of a household nature, objects of art or historical value, or articles of worth, such as silver or gold ware, chinaware, linens, furniture, stamp collections, coin collections, gems, jewelry, and paintings.**

(10) **Articles, including works of art or science, which were the property of municipalities or institutions dedicated to religion, charity, education, the arts and sciences, or other items of local value as**

may be determined by the combatant commander.

(11) **Items which are more valuable to research, training, military intelligence, historical, or other purposes than as a trophy, i.e., special purpose clothing, scientific research papers, technical books, weapons or equipment of peculiar design or modification.**

(12) **Any item, article, or piece of equipment obtained in violation of international law or in violation of any treaty law in effect between the United States and any other country. See FM 27-10, The Law of Land Warfare.**

(13) **Any other article or materiel not included above but determined by appropriate major commanders to be potentially detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of individuals will be prohibited for retention or shipment as war trophies.**

(14) **Any weapon, by whatever name called, which propels or expels a gas or gas-producing material, either by means of an explosive or compressed air.**

While in a combat AOR, Article 103 of the UCMJ states that military members must reasonably secure all public property taken from the enemy and turn over abandoned or captured property to the proper U.S. military representatives.

"Failure to carry out these duties, or looting, pillaging or disposing of captured property for personal benefit is punishable by court-martial," said Harms.

The complete list is available on the web at www.hqusareur.army.mil.

New 3rd COSCOM Website

The 3rd Corps Support Command has a new website. Located at www.3coscom.wiesbaden.army.mil the site has a new look and features. The website, focuses on 3rd COSCOM units stationed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. With the new look, the website bridges the gap between families, both in Germany and the United States, with their service members that are in Iraq and Kuwait, says 3rd COSCOM Public Affairs Officer, Major Scott Slaten. The website also includes stories from the 3rd COSCOM soldiers and families stationed in Germany. There are several important sections that make the website a useful tool for the soldiers and their families. There are pages on professional development, family support and a photo album. Included is a page for family members to send messages to the soldiers deployed.

AAFES Suggestion Box

Hoping to purchase the latest CDs, but not sure how to let AAFES know what you want? Drop a request in the AAFES Suggestion Box. "Customers stop by all the time asking for stuff and we try our best," says Ralph Jordan, LSA Anaconda PX store manager. So while you are waiting in line next time in the PX write down your suggestions and drop them in the box or send them to Jordan at jordanr@aafes.com

Contact us...

The Desert Sustainer is a newsletter compiled, printed and published by the 3rd Corps Support Command Public Affairs Office. Please send any comments, suggestions, submissions, or story ideas to us by email at scott.slaten@us.army.mil, or call 558-2053, or stop by bldg. 4137.